

WNV 2007 and beyond – tracking WNV in time and space



William K. Reisen

Some thoughts....

- ◆ WNV will remain active in California and retain its high virulence for birds [esp. corvids], unless there is an increase in mosquito susceptibility to infection
- ◆ *Culex* will continue to function as both maintenance and bridge vectors; *Aedes*, *Anopheles* and *Culiseta* will not be involved frequently
- ◆ Intensity of transmission will be focal as WNV tracks non-immune and abundant resident bird populations
- ◆ Dead bird tracking system will become less valuable, because of public apathy, reduced media coverage, and reduced mortality in birds due to WNV
- ◆ Transmission in the northern Central Valley and the coast may be limited to periods with above normal temperatures [mean temp >26C or evening temps >18C]

Some more thoughts....

- ◆ Sentinel chickens may become more valuable detecting low levels of virus activity in rural environments
- ◆ Reduced WNV transmission may allow the re-introduction of SLEV into southern California – new SLEV strains may be more virulent than previously endemic strains?
- ◆ Mosquito control will remain the only intervention method to protect the public
- ◆ Applications of pyrethroids and PBO will come under increasing scrutiny
- ◆ Extramural funding for mosquito control will decrease